

REMARKS

The Office Action

In the Office Action issued September 10, 2007, the Examiner rejected claims 1-7 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Sperry (U.S. Patent No. 5,995,723) in view of Sabbagh (U.S. patent No. 6,814,510).

Applicant has carefully considered the Office Action. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the application in light of the following comments.

Claim 1 is not unpatentable over Sperry in view of Sabbagh

The Examiner rejected independent claim 1 as being unpatentable over Sperry in view of Sabbagh. The Examiner stated that Sperry teaches a partial print provider that permits a first print spooler associated with a network print server to interface with a second print spooler can be associated with a print server. The Examiner goes on to state that Sperry fails to expressly teach the second print spoolers that is associated with the network print server. The Examiner relies upon Sabbagh for teaching that the spooler may be associated with a network print server. The Examiner goes on to state that it would have been obvious for a person with ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made to modify the two disclosures in order to form the provider.

Applicant disagrees with this rejection for several reasons. First, it is submitted that Sperry not disclose or suggest one or more spoolers associated with a print provider. At most, Sperry suggests a first print spooler that is associated with a print assistant 42. As stated in the Sperry reference, the information is meant to flow freely between the print assistant and one or more print spoolers, not between the printers as the Examiner claims. The addition of Sabbagh does not cure this deficiency.

Second, each of these one or more spoolers, as referenced by the Examiner, is associated with one or more print providers 38. This is evidenced by Figure 2 (note the 1 to 1 correlation between the print spooler 44 and print provider 38). Therefore, there is no suggestion that multiple print spoolers are associated with any one print provider which is claimed in claim 1. Again, Sabbagh does not cure this deficiency.

There is no motivation to combine Sabbagh and Sperry.

The Examiner attempts to piece together Sabbagh and Sperry to form the partial print provider recited in the claims. However, claims recite that a partial print provider permits a first print spooler to interface with a second print spooler. Taking two different print spoolers from two different references does not show that they would interface, much less to interface to process a print job submitted to the network print server from a network print client. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the rejection to claim 1 be withdrawn.

Furthermore, even if these two references were combinable, the result would not shown an interface. As stated above, these two references do not yield an interface between them. Because claim recites an interface the rejection should be withdrawn.

Dependent claims 2-7 are not unpatentable over Sperry in view of Sabbagh

Dependent claims 2-7 are all dependent from claim 1. As stated above, these claims are currently in condition for allowance. Because the dependent claims are all dependent from claim 1, these dependent claims should also be allowed for at least the same reasons. Therefore, it is requested that the rejections to these claims also be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing comments, Applicant submits that claims 1-7 are currently in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests early notification of such allowance. Should any issue remain unsolved, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned to attempt to resolve any such issues.

Any fee that is due in conjunction with the filing of this Response, Applicant authorizes deduction of that fee from Deposit Account 24-0037 .

In the event the Examiner considers personal contact advantageous to the disposition of this case, he/she is hereby authorized to call Joseph D. Dreher, at Telephone Number (216) 861-5582.

Respectfully submitted,

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12/10/07
Date

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